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Combined Districts of

BATHAVON, KEYNSHAM, FROME (Urban and Rural)

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year 1946

R. H. G. HECTOR DENHAM, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health

Health Department,
Council Offices,
30-32 Westgate Buildings,
Bath.
Telephone : Bath 5391

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
30-32 WESTGATE BUILDINGS,
BATH.

To the Chairmen and Members of the
Bathavon, Keynsham and Frome
District Councils.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The acute infectious diseases have maintained their low incidence and generally mild character during the year. Diphtheria has been a rarity, only two cases having been notified throughout the area.

In common with other parts of the country, a number of cases of infective enteritis occurred among the infant population, but fortunately the infection was of a much less virulent nature than that reported from other areas and no deaths occurred among the cases investigated.

The death rate was almost the same as last year but the birth rate was slightly higher and the infantile mortality rate lower.

In some parts of the area a difficulty was created by the action of a number of people who took the law into their own hands and occupied properties which had been used during the war years as camps and gun sites. A straining of the resources of the sanitary departments concerned was a natural result of this step, as facilities to render these places reasonably habitable had to be provided in order to comply with the official ruling of the Ministry of Health. What promised to be an awkward situation was soon under control, however, and a large number of families were housed under comparatively satisfactory conditions.

Building has progressed more slowly than one would wish, but there is some slight satisfaction in noting that a number of the most inadequately housed families have at last been provided for.

I have pleasure in thanking once more the chairmen and members of my constituent authorities and also various members of their staffs who continue to accord me their willing assistance and co-operation at all times.

I am,
Your obedient servant,

R. H. G. HECTOR DENHAM.

July, 1947.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

SCARLET FEVER

Scarlet fever maintained its mild character and removal to hospital was indicated in roughly one half of the cases notified. Thirty-six cases were notified and nineteen admitted to hospital. Last year's figures were 61 notified and 35 admitted to hospital.

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH

Thirty cases of measles were notified compared with 1,001 for the previous year, and 62 cases of whooping cough as against 41 for last year. There was one death from whooping cough.

PNEUMONIA

Thirty-two cases of pneumonia were notified and of these 7 died. These figures are probably a much truer representation of the incidence of pneumonia in the area than last year's figures of 9 notifications received and no deaths registered among the notified cases.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER

As last year, there were 2 cases of cerebro-spinal fever, 1 of which was fatal.

DIPHTHERIA

The practice of prophylactic inoculation against diphtheria has been actively continued throughout the year. Two injections are given at monthly intervals, the first usually near the child's first birthday, and these are followed by a further single injection when the child reaches school age. The immunity to the disease which it is hoped to establish by the first two injections is, unfortunately, apt to wane to a variable degree in the course of time, and the object of the further injection after four to five years, the so-called boosting or re-inforcing injection, is to restore this declining immunity.

Two cases of diphtheria were notified during the year, neither of which had been immunised.

Immunisation is still available throughout the area as follows :

Bathavon area : Health Dept., 30 Westgate Buildings, Bath, on Saturday mornings.

Keynsham area : Social Service Hut, Avon Road, Keynsham, last two Wednesdays in the month from 2.0 till 3.45 p.m.

Frome Urban and Rural areas : Frome Dispensary, Wednesdays at 2.30 p.m.

A stock of Diphtheria anti toxin is still held at each of the Council Offices in the area to serve the needs of practitioners during the day. Out of office hours, that is, between the hours of 5 p.m. and 9 a.m., the serum can be obtained from the following premises :

Bath City Police Station for the Bathavon area ;
Keynsham P.A. Institution for the Keynsham area ;
Victoria Hospital, Frome, for the Frome Urban and Frome Rural areas.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA

There were 5 cases of puerperal pyrexia compared with seven for last year.

ERYSIPELAS

Five cases of erysipelas were notified against 11 for last year.

DYSENTERY

Seven cases of Sonne dysentery were notified during the year. In view of the infectivity of this disease one was apprehensive of many more cases but fortunately these fears were unjustified.

INFECTIVE ENTERITIS

An appreciable number of cases of acute diarrhoea and vomiting, affecting chiefly women and children, were reported at different times during the year. Despite the complete investigation of a number of them, no bacterial cause for the condition was discovered. There is little doubt that the disease is an acute infection caused perhaps by some as yet unknown virus. No deaths occurred among the cases reported.

TUBERCULOSIS

The incidence of tuberculosis in the area gave little cause for satisfaction. The total number of cases notified was only slightly higher than the 1945 figure but the pulmonary cases showed a marked increase. The figures were 55 pulmonary and 7 non-pulmonary compared with 45 pulmonary and 14 non-pulmonary for the previous year.

SCABIES

Disinfestation of clothing and bedding and fumigation of the home was undertaken in respect of four families infected with scabies. No action was necessary under the Scabies Order (1940).

ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS

Three cases of acute anterior poliomyelitis were notified during the year against 1 for last year. Two occurred in children and were comparatively mild, but the third occurred in an adult male and was a fulminating type, which unfortunately proved fatal.

STATISTICAL TABLE

The following Table shows the comparative birth rates, death rates and infantile mortality rates for the combined districts for the years 1939–46 with the corresponding figures for England and Wales.

The areal comparability factors are still in suspension by the Ministry of Health, and the death rates shown in the statistics for the years 1942-46 are therefore the recorded rates only.

	Birth rate	Death rate	Infantile Mortality rate
Combined districts 1939	13 ·8	11 ·1	45 ·2
England and Wales 1939	15 ·0	12 ·1	50 ·0
Combined Districts 1940	12 ·9	11 ·9	51 ·1
England and Wales 1940	14 ·6	14 ·3	55 ·0
Combined districts 1941	13 ·2	11 ·8	45 ·2
England and Wales 1941	14 ·2	12 ·9	59 ·0
Combined districts 1942	16 ·4	11 ·7	29 ·6
England and Wales 1942	15 ·8	11 ·6	49 ·0
Combined districts 1943	18 ·68	11 ·44	29 ·47
England and Wales 1943	16 ·5	12 ·1	49 ·0
Combined districts 1944	17 ·75	11 ·52	29 ·96
England and Wales 1944	17 ·6	11 ·6	46 ·0
Combined districts 1945	17 ·33	12 ·43	42 ·70
England and Wales 1945	16 ·1	11 ·4	46 ·0
Combined districts 1946	18 ·046	12 ·34	39 ·06
England and Wales 1946	19 ·1	11 ·5	43 ·0

The figures all compare favourably with those of last year. The death rate is practically the same, but the birth rate is raised and the infantile mortality rate lowered.

The statistics for the area differ little from those of the country as a whole, the birth rate being a trifle lower, the death rate a little higher, and the infantile mortality rate lower.

BATHAVON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Population estimated 1946	20,270
Area of the District	42,083 acres
Number of Houses Inhabited according to Rate Books at April, 1946	5,866
Average number of Persons per House	3·45
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£437
Rateable Value, April, 1946	£107,559

Chairman of the Council	Major G. St. J. Strutt, C.B.E., J.P.
Chairman of the Sanitary Committee	R. W. Tucker, Esq.
Senior Sanitary Inspector	C. C. Axford, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.
Additional Sanitary Inspector	H. C. L. Morris, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.
Health Department Clerk	Miss Tennant

Council Offices :
30-32 Westgate Buildings, Bath.

Telephone : Bath 5391/5

Health Dept. : Bath 5391/5

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

The number of live births registered, adjusted for inward and outward transfers, total 370.

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
Legitimate	183	166	349
Illegitimate	12	9	21
	195	175	370

STILL BIRTHS

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
Legitimate	3	—	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	3	—	3

Birth Rate, per 1000 estimated resident population, mid 1946	18·25
Still births, rate per 1000 total (live and still) births	8·04
Death Rate, rate per 1000 estimated average population	13·32
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—	
All Infants per 1000 live births	56·76
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	54·44
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	95·24
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
,, ,, Other puerperal causes	Nil
,, ,, Cancer (all ages)	45
,, ,, Measles (all ages)	Nil
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
,, ,, Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	3

DEATHS

The number of deaths, adjusted for inward and outward transfers, total 270, 135 males and 135 females. The following Table indicates the cause of death :—

	Male	*Female*	*Total*
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	—	—	—
Cerebro spinal fever	—	—	—
Scarlet fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	1	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	8	5	13
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	—	1
Syphilitic diseases	1	—	1
Influenza	1	2	3
Measles	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	1	—	1
Acute infantile encephalitis	—	—	—
Cancer of Oesoph. and Uterus	2	1	3
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	9	5	14
Cancer of Breast	—	2	2
Cancer of all other sites	14	12	26
Diabetes	—	3	3
Intracranial vascular lesions	16	20	36
Heart disease	43	45	88
Other diseases of circulatory system	1	3	4
Bronchitis	2	4	6
Pneumonia	4	2	6
Other respiratory diseases	4	—	4
Ulcer of Stomach or duodenum	1	—	1
Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	—	3	3
Appendicitis	—	—	—
Other digestive diseases	1	2	3
Nephritis	3	4	7
Puerperal and post abortive sepsis	—	—	—
Other maternal causes	—	—	—
Premature birth	5	1	6
Congenital malformation, birth injury	4	3	7
Suicide	2	1	3
Road traffic accidents	2	—	2
Other violent causes	2	4	6
All other causes	8	12	20
	135	135	270

Deaths under One year of age

There were 21 deaths of Infants under 1 year, 14 males and 7 females, divided as follows :—

Under 1 week	11	1—4 weeks	4
1—6 months	1	6—12 months	5

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis)

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
Small Pox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	15	7	—
Diphtheria	1	1	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—
Measles	23	—	—
Whooping Cough	7	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	—	—	—
Dysentery	1	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—
Pneumonia	12	—	3
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	1
Encephalitis lethargica	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—
	63	9	5

TUBERCULOSIS

Twenty-eight cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified, 17 male and 11 female. Two cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified, both female.

	Total Cases notified	*Total Deaths*
Respiratory	28	13
Non-respiratory	2	1

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The Bathavon and Keynsham Tuberculosis Care Committee continues its good work under the chairmanship of Miss Date.

WATER SUPPLIES

Details of the water supplies of the various Parishes are given hereunder :—

Parish	*By whom supplied*	*Percentage of houses with water laid on*	*Percentage served with standpipes*	
Bathampton ...	R.D.C. and Bath Corp.	97%	1%	Chlorinated
Batheaston	Bath Corp.	97%	—	,,
Bathford	R.D.C.	91%	9%	,,
Camerton	R.D.C.	60%	38%	,,
Charlcombe	Bath Corp.	47%	—	,,
Claverton	Combe Down Water Co. & Estate supply	81%	—	,,
Compton Dando	Private	20%	4%	Unchlorinated
Combe Hay	Private	7%	—	,,
Corston	Part West Glos. Water Co., part private	18%	72%	Part Chlor. ,, Unchlor.
Dunkerton	R.D.C.	44%	17%	Chlorinated
Englishcombe	Combe Down Water Co. & private	37%	—	,,
Freshford	Combe Down Water Co.	86%	15%	,,
Hinton Charterhouse	R.D.C.	72%	11%	,,
Kelston	Private	87%	—	Unchlorinated
Marksbury	R.D.C.	9%	51%	Chlorinated
Monkton Combe	Part Combe Down Water Co., part private	97%	—	Part Chlor. ,, Unchlor

Parish	*By whom supplied*	*Percentage of houses with water laid on*	*Percentage served with standpipes*	
Newton St. Loe	Private	19%	14%	Unchlorinated
Northstoke	Part R.D.C. Part private	38%	61%	,,
Priston	Priston Water Supply Co.	9%	76%	Unchlorinated
Southstoke	Combe Down Water Co.	91%	5%	Chlorinated
St. Catherine	Bath Corp.	38%	—	,,
Swainswick	R.D.C. and Bath Corp.	94%	—	Part Chlor. ,, Unchlor.
Wellow	R.D.C.	82%	10%	Part Chlor. ,, Unchlor.
Weston	Bath Corp.	96%	4%	Chlorinated.
Whitchurch	West. Glos. Water Co.	97%	—	,,

The statutory water undertakers gave a constant supply to the parts of the district served by them. The purity of the supplies from these undertakers and those of the Council was satisfactory as the routine samples have shown. The water in the district is invariably hard and we are, therefore, not troubled with plumbo-solvent action.

With regard to the augmentation of the Wellow and Peasedown St. John supply the Ministry of Health have now held a local inquiry on the matter and, at the time of writing, tenders for the work have been received and will shortly be laid before the Minister.

The scheme for the serving of the parishes of Corston, Compton Dando, Newton St. Loe, Northstoke and Kelston by the West Gloucester Water Supply Company referred to in last year's report has now been submitted to the Minister and a local enquiry has been held, but certain technical matters on which the Ministry require to be satisfied have held up the commencement of the work.

Arrangements have been made for the provision of a piped water supply to the village of Charlcombe with the Bath City Corporation, but difficulty in obtaining pipes and fittings has prevented the commencement of the work.

At Queen Charlton the Council have agreed arrangements with the West Gloucester Water Company for a piped supply of water to be taken through the village to replace the existing defective estate supply and as soon as materials are available the work will be put in hand. The Council's consulting engineers are at the present time preparing a scheme for supplying a piped supply of water to the village of Priston and the hamlet of Nailwell for the Council's consideration.

SEWERAGE

The Avon valley sewers serving the parishes of Monkton Combe, Claverton, Bathford, Batheaston and Bathampton, together with the low level pumping plant at Batheaston, continued to give complete satisfaction.

Extensions have been carried out to take the drainage from the new housing estates. Progress has been made in the preparation of the scheme for the parishes of Camerton, Dunkerton and Wellow in which lies the built-up area of Peasedown St. John. The schemes have now been submitted to the County Council and the Ministry of Health, but a public enquiry has not yet been held.

The sewerage scheme for Freshford has been submitted to the County Council, but as yet not to the Ministry of Health as discussions are at present taking place with an adjoining authority for the reception of the sewage into their sewage disposal works.

During the year considerable trouble has been experienced with cesspools overflowing and polluting water courses and adjoining ground in the London Road area of Bathford. A scheme for sewering this area was prepared before the war but was not proceeded with. It is considered that this area should now be sewered as soon as practicable to abate the unsatisfactory conditions.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The eleven slaughterhouses in the district are still not in use owing to the Government scheme of centralised slaughtering. Meat inspection is therefore confined to animals slaughtered privately under licence from the Ministry of Food and to complaints by retailers and shopkeepers. During inspection at retail shops the following foods were condemned as unfit for human consumption :

131	lbs.	of meat
11	tins	,, meat product
28	,,	,, tomato pack
15	,,	,, fish
7	,,	,, vegetables
8½	lbs.	,, cheese
21	,,	,, assorted chocolates
5	,,	,, boiled sweets
6	,,	,, Turkish delight

Routine inspections of the bakehouses, shops and premises used for the preparation of food were made by the inspectors. It was found necessary to take formal action in the case of one general provision shop and to cancel the registration for the making of ice-cream.

There are no underground bakehouses in the district.

MILK

(a) Total number of registered dairy farms : 265.
(b) Number of retailers : 78.
(c) Number of producer-retailers included in (b) : 59.

The County Council now undertake the sampling of milk at the accredited and tuberculin tested farms. Your inspectors undertake the sampling for the presence of tubercle bacilli.

Routine inspection of the registered farms is carried out, and during the year it became necessary to bring one producer retailer before the committee. This resulted in a general improvement in the conditions at the farm.

One licence to bottle pasteurised milk was issued by the Council.

HOUSING

At the end of the year the Council had 123 houses in course of erection. Forty-six houses had been completed by private enterprise with 22 in course of erection. The houses being built by the Council are in most part of the 3-bedroom type. Some flats for elderly people are being provided. The number of applicants for Council houses was 1,148. The Council have 20 sites in their possession and are negotiating for 4 further sites.

The construction of roads and sewers was completed on sites at Combe Down, Batheaston, Bathampton, Weston, Whitchurch and Freshford.

Inspections and recording under the rural housing survey on the lines of the Hobhouse Report and in conjunction with the County Rural Housing Committee was continued during the year, and at the end of the year the following houses were recorded and categorised :

Number inspected and recorded	1511
These houses were categorised as follows :	
Satisfactory in all respects	59
Having minor defects	247
To be dealt with under Sec. 9 of the Housing Act	1078
For action under Sec. 11 (i.e. demolition)	127

HUTMENTS

During the year six camps vacated by the military authorities were occupied by persons then known as squatters. The Council at once took advantage of the powers given them by the Ministry of Health and all the camps were taken over. The huts were repaired where necessary, adapted for living accommodation, piped water supplies installed where not already existing, lavatory accommodation provided, and electricity installed, with the result that at the time of writing 130 families are housed in these camps. These camps have thrown a large amount of work on the officials, but it is considered that this has been well worth while since the camps have been formed into small communities having in a number of places their own shops, entertainment rooms, etc., the community life being largely managed by committees which the tenants have formed from amongst themselves.

INDUSTRIES

The main industries existing in the district are:

Coal mining	Stone quarrying
Paper making	Lime kilns
Plasticine making	Fullers earth
Joinery works	Rubber industry
Agriculture	

It has not been necessary to take formal action in any way with regard to the enforcement of the provisions relating to the factories, workshops, or out-workers' premises.

Informal action with regard to fire-escapes was necessary in the case of three factories where additional accommodation was being brought into use.

GENERAL

Camping Sites. Twelve licences to station and use individual moveable dwellings and 4 licences authorising land to be used as camping sites were granted under Sec. 269 of the Public Health Act. The licences are renewable every 6 months when the conditions are examined before the renewals are issued.

Rats and Mice. The rat destruction campaign initiated by the Ministry of Food was continued by our rodent officer. Forty-eight poisoning operations were carried out at private residences and business premises. The refuse tips and sections of sewers received treatment every three months. The poisons used include zinc phosphide, red squill and rodine.

Vermin. Three cases of flea infestation and one of cockroaches were dealt with by the inspectors. The refuse tips were dressed to prevent any possible fly menace during the summer months.

There is one licensed knacker's yard in use in the district.

There are no public swimming pools or common lodging houses in the district.

KEYNSHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Population estimated 1946	7,142
Area of the District	4,170 acres
Number of Houses inhabited according to Rate Books	2,111
Average Number of Persons per House	3·38
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£225
Rateable Value	£52,365

Chairman of the Council	B. J. V. Nicholls, Esq., J.P.
Chairman of the Health Committee	Mrs. M. Hickling, B.A.
Sanitary Inspector	H. W. Argile, M.I.M. & Cy. E., A.R.S.I.
Assistant Sanitary Inspector	D. F. G. Lockyear, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Council Offices : Keynsham.

Telephone : Keynsham 2291/3.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

The number of live births registered, adjusted for inward and outward transfers, total 119.

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
Legitimate	55	60	115
Illegitimate	3	1	4
	58	61	119

STILL BIRTHS

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
Legitimate	5	—	5
Illegitimate	1	—	1
	6	—	6

Birth Rate, per 1000 estimated resident population, mid 1946	16·66
Still births, rate per 1000 total (live and still) births	48·00
Death Rate, rate per 1000 estimated average population	11·34
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—	
All Infants per 1000 live births	16·81
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	17·39
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
,, ,, Other puerperal causes	1
,, ,, Cancer (all ages)	20
,, ,, Measles (all ages)	Nil
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
,, ,, Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	Nil

DEATHS

The number of deaths, adjusted for inward and outward transfers, total 81, 42 males and 39 females. The following Table indicates the cause of death :—

	Male	*Female*	*Total*
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—	—
Scarlet fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	—	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—
Syphilitic diseases	1	—	1
Influenza....	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Acute infantile encephalitis	—	1	1
Cancer of Oesoph. and Uterus	2	1	3
Cancer of Stomach and duodenum	—	4	4
Cancer of Breast	—	—	—
Cancer of all other sites	9	4	13
Diabetes	—	—	—
Intracranial vascular lesions	2	5	7
Heart disease	13	5	18
Other diseases of circulatory system	1	3	4
Bronchitis	2	2	4
Pneumonia	—	—	—
Other respiratory diseases	—	2	2
Ulcer of Stomach or duodenum	—	1	1
Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	—	—	—
Appendicitis	—	—	—
Other digestive diseases	—	1	1
Nephritis....	3	5	8
Puerperal and post abortive sepsis	—	—	—
Other maternal causes	—	1	1
Premature birth	—	—	—
Congenital malformation, birth injury	1	—	1
Suicide	4	—	4
Road traffic accidents	1	1	2
Other violent causes	—	—	—
All other causes	2	3	5
	42	39	81

Deaths under One year of age

There were 2 deaths of Infants under 1 year, both males, divided as follows :—

Under 1 week	Nil	1—4 weeks	1
1—6 months	1	6—12 months	Nil

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis)

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
Small Pox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	2	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—
Measles	1	—	—
Whooping Cough	8	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	—	—	—
Dysentery	6	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—
Pneumonia	7	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	—	—
Encephalitis lethargica	—	—	—
Erysipelas	2	—	—
	29	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS

Three cases of pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, all males. No cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified.

	Total Cases notified	*Total Deaths*
Respiratory	3	1
Non-respiratory	—	—

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

KEYNSHAM DAY NURSERY

Mrs. Cross resigned from her post as matron during the year, and the care of the children is now in the equally efficient hands of Mrs. Rimmington.

The general health and condition of the children found at routine medical inspections was satisfactory. Apart from a number of cases of chicken-pox little infectious disease occurred.

The average attendance in the first part of the year was 28 children from 2 to 5 years and 3 children in the creche under 2 years. Towards the end of the year the number increased to an average of 40 from 2 to 5 years and 10 babies under 2 years.

Ellsbridge has been established to fulfil its present function on a more or less permanent basis but it is almost certain that further changes will take place eventually to meet present day requirements.

KEYNSHAM INFANT WELFARE CLINIC

In conjunction with this centre another was opened in Saltford during the year. The numbers have not justified the attendance of a doctor and it has been conducted by the local district nurse. Any mother who, in the nurse's opinion, has required further advice has been asked to attend the Keynsham centre on the doctor's day. The main responsibility for the supervision of these centres rests in the very capable hands of Mrs. Sharman who, with her faithful group of voluntary lady workers, continues to give a considerable part of her time to this very important work.

The figures showing the year's working are as follows :

	Keynsham	*Saltford*	*Evacuee*	*Total*
Totals on the Register at the beginning of the year	351	32	9	392
Totals on the Register at the end of the year	378	40	—	418

The attendances for the year were :—

	Keynsham	*Saltford*	*Evacuee*	*Total*
January	153	1	—	154
February	145	—	2	147
March	144	7	—	151
April	148	5	—	153
May	196	18	—	214
June	140	10	—	150
July	168	20	—	188

ATTENDANCES FOR THE YEAR (*continued*)

	Keynsham	*Saltford*	*Evacuee*	*Total*
August (closed first two weeks)	70	12	—	82
September	116	11	—	127
October	194	10	—	204
November	141	8	—	149
December	95	5	—	100
	1710	107	2	1819

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

RAINFALL

Month	Somerdale Station (*Total depth in inches*)	Greatest Fall in 24 hours	Date
January	2·67	0·46	28th
February	3·00	0·88	3rd
March	0·85	0·47	20th
April	1·75	0·46	4th
May	4·44	0·50	31st
June	2·47	0·59	27th
July	1·07	0·44	17th
August	6·27	0·73	10th
September	3·71	0·78	3rd
October	1·09	0·48	19th
November	4·80	0·56	23rd
December	2·77	0·34	30th
TOTAL	34·88	—	—

SEWAGE AND REFUSE DISPOSAL

The public sewers serve practically the whole of the area and, with the exception of a few outlying properties, all houses are connected to them.

The majority of the sewage is conveyed to the Disposal Works at Unity Road which, although dealing with a much greater flow than that for which they were designed, still treat the sewage satisfactorily.

The difficulties of drying and disposing of sludge have increased during recent years and the Council are preparing plans for the improvement of this part of the works.

Domestic and trade refuse is collected weekly from the whole of the area by the Council's workmen. It is taken to the Stidham Gravel Pit, sorted for material of value as salvage, and the remainder disposed of by controlled tipping.

HOUSING

The necessity for conserving building labour and material for essential work has continued throughout the year and prevented the execution of all but essential maintenance.

A number of inspections have been made, and where nuisances and sanitary defects were found they have been rectified by informal action. One statutory notice has been served and complied with.

Some 300 licences for building work have been issued, several of which have been for the erection of new houses. At the end of the year licences for 26 houses were in operation, and of these 14 houses had been completed.

No serious overcrowding has been revealed, but applications for Council houses, which totalled 573 at the end of the year, showed that conditions in some houses left much to be desired.

The Council's housing programme progressed as well as prevailing conditions permitted.

Advance preparation of sites (roads and sewers) for 218 houses has been completed, contracts for the erection of 90 houses on two sites were in progress, and tenders for a further 104 houses have been submitted for approval to the Ministry of Health.

Twenty temporary prefabricated houses and nineteen permanent traditional houses have been completed and occupied. The conversion of a large house into 4 flats has also been completed.

The layout plans for the development of a further site of 20 acres, which it is expected will eventually accommodate 160 houses, were well advanced at the end of the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk

Dairies and cowsheds situated in the area have been periodically inspected. Generally speaking, all have been found to be well maintained and conducted.

There are 20 producers of milk and 7 retailers, 3 of whom obtain their milk from outside the area.

Four of the producers are licensed by the Somerset County Council to produce Tuberculin Tested Milk and one to produce Accredited Milk.

In addition, the District Council have issued :

1 Pasteurisers Licence.
2 Licences to retail Pasteurised Milk.
1 Licence to retail T.T. Milk.
2 Licences to bottle and retail T.T. Milk.
1 Licence to bottle and retail Accredited Milk.

Examination of milk samples has been taken over by the Public Health Laboratory at Taunton and, during the year, 15 samples for tubercle bacilli and 24 samples of designated milk have been submitted for examination by your officers.

Bakehouses

The six bakehouses situated in the area have been well maintained and the requirements as to limewashing, cleanliness, etc., have been complied with.

Food Premises

There are 22 premises registered under the Food & Drugs Act for the preparation of food. These premises have been periodically inspected and found to be well maintained, but the continuation of rationing has practically stopped food preparation in small establishments.

In the course of visits to food premises, the following foods were surrendered as unfit for human consumption :—

30 tins meat and meat products
61 tins fish and fish products
5 stones smoked fish
99 tins milk
85 tins fruit and vegetables
1,980 lbs. sultanas
659 lbs. jam
50 lbs. prunes
10 lbs. sugar
31 lbs. miscellaneous foods

This list does not necessarily indicate any deterioration in the quality of food supplies. Under trading arrangements which obtained before the war a large proportion of this food would have been destroyed without reference to the Local Authority but rationing regulations require inspection and certification by sanitary inspectors before retailers can be credited with " points " and cash value of unfit food.

The majority of this food was used for animal feeding.

Meat

The three licensed slaughterhouses remain unused owing to the centralised slaughtering scheme of the Ministry of Food.

In the course of visits to butchers' shops, 61 lbs. of meat were condemned as unfit for food. This amount is a considerable improvement upon that recorded in previous reports.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

The efforts to control rodent infestation have been sustained throughout the year, but no major infestations have been revealed. In order to ensure that everything possible was done to reduce rodent population, the Council decided to participate in the special scheme which the Ministry of Food introduced, and a temporary full-time operator has been appointed to conduct a thorough investigation of the area and to undertaken treatment where necessary.

The Council's own properties, particularly sewers and refuse tip, have been kept under constant supervision and practically free from rodents.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The return from wartime to peacetime production and conditions in the local industries has been practically completed during the year. Most of the pre-war industries remain and employ a fair proportion of the available population. In addition, one or two new industries have acquired sites for future development. There is no unemployment in the area.

WATER

1. The whole of the Urban District is within the area of supply of the West Gloucestershire Water Company and with the exception of about a dozen scattered houses and farms all domestic supplies are obtained from this source. Quality and quantity have continued to be satisfactory, but the water is hard.
2. As the source of supply is some distance from the area of the Urban District, no analysis has been made of the raw water from samples collected by your officers. Bacteriological analysis of the water is made quarterly and all have proved satisfactory.

 Chemical analyses have also been made and these show that the water is hard with up to 24 parts per 100,000 and slightly alkaline with 8 parts per 100,000 of sodium bicarbonate.

(3) As the water is hard, no trouble has been experienced with plumbo-solvent action.
(4) No contamination has occurred.
(5) Practically the whole of the houses in the area have piped supply direct from the public mains ; there are no stand-pipes.

FROME URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Population estimated 1946	10,660
Area of the District	1,194 acres
Number of Houses inhabited according to Rate Books	3,082
Average Number of Persons per House	3·45
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£267
Rateable Value	£66,350

Chairman of the Council	D. W. Humphreys, Esq., M.A., J.P.
Chairman of the General Purposes Committee	A. D. Frampton, Esq., J.P.
Sanitary Inspector	A. I. Bell, Cert. S.I.E.J.B. M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.

Public Offices, Frome.

Telephone: Frome 2348

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

The number of live births registered, adjusted for inward and outward transfers, total 185.

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
Legitimate	96	83	179
Illegitimate	4	2	6
	100	85	185

STILL BIRTHS

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
Legitimate	3	2	5
Illegitimate	1	—	1
	4	2	6

Birth Rate, per 1000 estimated resident population, mid 1946	17·35
Still births, rate per 1000 total (live and still) births	31·41
Death Rate, per 1000 estimated average population	13·13
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—	
All Infants per 1000 live births	43·24
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	39·11
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	166·67
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
,, ,, Other puerperal causes	Nil
,, ,, Cancer (all ages)	22
,, ,, Measles (all ages)	Nil
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	Ni
,, ,, Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	1

DEATHS

The number of deaths, adjusted for inward and outward transfers, total 140, 64 males and 76 females. The following Table indicates the cause of death :—

	Male	*Female*	*Total*
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever	—	1	1
Scarlet fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	2	3
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	1	1
Syphilitic diseases	—	—	—
Influenza	—	1	1
Measles	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Acute infantile encephalitis	—	—	—
Cancer of Oesoph. and Uterus	1	—	1
Cancer of Stomach and duodenum	2	1	3
Cancer of Breast	—	3	3
Cancer of all other sites	9	6	15
Diabetes	1	—	1
Intracranial vascular lesions	4	15	19
Heart disease	17	22	39
Other diseases of circulatory system	4	2	6
Bronchitis	1	5	6
Pneumonia	2	2	4
Other respiratory diseases	—	1	1
Ulcer of Stomach or duodenum	3	—	3
Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	1	—	1
Appendicitis	—	—	—
Other digestive diseases	3	3	6
Nephritis	—	3	3
Puerperal and post abortive sepsis	—	—	—
Other maternal causes	—	—	—
Premature birth	—	1	1
Congenital malformation, birth injury	2	2	4
Suicide	4	—	4
Road traffic accidents	—	—	—
Other violent causes	2	2	4
All other causes	7	3	10
	64	76	140

Deaths under One year of age

There were 8 deaths of Infants under 1 year, 3 males and 5 females, divided as follows :—

Under 1 week	2	1—4 weeks	2
1—6 months	2	6—12 months	2

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis)

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
Small Pox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	6	4	—
Diphtheria	1	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—
Measles	2	—	—
Whooping Cough	22	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	2	—	1
Dysentery	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—
Pneumonia	6	—	2
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Encephalitis lethargica	—	—	—
Erysipelas	2	—	—
	43	4	3

TUBERCULOSIS

Thirteen cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified, 7 male and 6 female. Two cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified, both female.

	Total Cases notified	*Total Deaths*
Respiratory	13	3
Non-respiratory	2	1

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

FROME DAY NURSERY

The Day Nursery, in spite of difficulties and doubts as to the possibility of its survival, has managed to maintain its existence in its present home and to continue the good work one now always looks for from the matron and her staff. Little fault could be found with the health and general condition of the children and apart from chicken-pox, on account of which two weeks' closure was necessary, there was very little infectious disease.

The nursery has now become so popular and appears to fill such a definite need in the town that it is to be hoped that alternative and more suitable accommodation will soon present itself.

The average attendance per session was 29, the highest in any day being 33. The nursery was open for 244 days and the total number of attendances was 7,076.

FROME WELFARE CENTRE

In last year's report the hope was expressed that this centre would be housed in different premises in the not distant future. It may be that 1947 will see the fulfilment of this hope. A special tribute should be paid to the voluntary lady workers who have laboured so uncomplainingly and thereby ensured the popularity of the centre. For their sakes as well as for the mothers, I hope that the new premises will soon be forthcoming as the difficulties in carrying out the work under the present conditions are much greater than those which they should be expected to undertake. As will be seen from the following figures, the total attendances for the year again show an increase.

January	149
February	135
March	140
April	103
May	165
June	128
July	141
August	157
September	173
October	181
November	186
December	121
	1779

Totals on the Register at the beginning of the year 60

" " " " " " end " " " 105

Attendances for the year 1945 1681

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

MILK

Routine inspections of all dairies and cowsheds have been carried out during the year and the general standard of milk production has been well maintained.

There are 3 tuberculin tested, 4 accredited and 5 undesignated milk producers, a pasteurising and a heat treatment plant. When the further measures which the Government has decided are necessary to improve the quality of the milk supply are known and are operative, it should not be a difficult task to ensure that all milk sold in the area is either tuberculin tested, accredited or heat treated, as most of the milk at present retailed in Frome is already in one of these categories.

Of the samples taken during the year, 3 heat treated milks were unsatisfactory.

BAKEHOUSES

The 13 bakehouses were inspected at least twice during the year and the requirements as to lime washing and cleanliness well carried out.

FOOD PREMISES

All food premises have been visited, several on many occasions, and particular attention paid to rats and mice infestation. A circular was sent to all food premises drawing attention to the need for personal cleanliness and to the danger of the spread of diseases commonly conveyed by food, i.e. diseases of the enteric group (typhoid and paratyphoid fevers), dysentery, food poisoning and intestinal parasitism. With this circular was enclosed a card, " Now wash your hands—please ! " issued by the National Council for Health Education, to be affixed in each W.C. compartment.

ICE CREAM

There are 5 manufacturers and 10 retailers of ice-cream in Frome registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. The premises are satisfactory. One sample was taken for bacteriological examination and was reported by the public analyst to be very satisfactory.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

The two common lodging houses were regularly inspected and were well conducted.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

Disinfection was carried out following all cases of infectious disease. Four vermin infested houses were disinfested with satisfactory results.

RIVER POLLUTION

There was no fish mortality during the year but a thorough inspection of all possible sources of pollution was made. St. John's Mill, the G.W.R. sidings, the Wallbridge cloth mills, the Express Dairy factory, the Frome Vinegar works, and the Frome U.D.C. sewage works were inspected, and many samples of effluent and river water were taken for analysis. Acknowledgment is made of the great assistance given by Mr. Gill, the assistant County Sanitary Inspector and the Public Analyst. The principal sources of pollution were found to be :

ST. JOHN'S MILL. Now used as a paint factory. The drainage of this factory was found to be discharged untreated into the River Frome. The owners agreed to demolish the existing lavatories and rebuild them in the upper part of the factory premises from which access to the sewer could be obtained. The necessary plans and licences were approved and the work is now in hand.

FROME VINEGAR WORKS. It was found that the vat washings were entering the river at Welsh Mill, the drain conveying the washings being defective just above a surface water culvert. Samples taken showed an enormous amount of suspended solids and an enormous amount of putresable organic matter with an effect at least a hundred times than that of a passable sewage effluent. The drain has now been repaired and the washings are conveyed to the sewer.

FROME U.D.C. SEWAGE WORKS. The question of the improvement of these works has been fully considered by the Council who are awaiting the report of the consulting engineer.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

The Council adopted Circular N.S. 12, and, on 14th October, 1946, Mr. J. A. McPherson was appointed Rodent Officer, working under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. From that date to the end of the year 575 premises were surveyed (277 business premises and 298 dwelling houses). Business premises, rate of

infestation, 38.4 per cent ; dwelling houses, rate of infestation, 46.44 per cent ; treatments carried out by Rodent Officer, 34.

The whole of the district is being surveyed and treatment carried out where necessary. The Council's refuse destructor works, a source of reservoir infestation, was treated with most satisfactory results. Arsenic, zinc phosphide, red squill and cyanide has been used and the Ministry of Food methods adhered to.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Slaughtering continued at the Government slaughterhouse at Merchants Barton. It reflects great credit on the slaughterhouse manager, the contractor, and all employees that, despite the unfortunate proximity of the slaughterhouse to several factories employing 200 men and women, few complaints were received. The number of animals slaughtered during the year was as follows :

1,919 beasts, 7,201 calves, 3,199 sheep, 113 pigs, total 12,432.

From these figures it will be seen how much additional work is placed on the shoulders of the sanitary inspector who has not, since the slaughtering of animals came under the control of the Ministry of Food in January, 1940, had any technical assistance.

As a result of examination the following carcases and organs were found to be diseased and unfit for human consumption :—

Beasts

Carcases and Viscera	(Tuberculosis)	79
Forequarters	(,,)	22
Hindquarters	(,,)	2
Heads	(,,)	241
Lungs	(,,)	378
Livers	(,,)	70
Mesenteries	(,,)	37
Carcases and Viscera	(Johne's disease)	2
,, ,, ,,	(Multiple abscesses)	1
Forequarters	(Bruising)	2
Hindquarters	(,,)	2
Heads	(Actinomycosis)	2
Hearts	(Fatty degeneration)	1
Livers	(Distomatosis)	314
,, , parts of	(,,)	143
,, ...	(Cavernous Angioma)	37

Sheep

Carcase	(Oedema)	1
Carcase	(Jaundice)	1
Lungs and Livers	(Strongylus rufescens)	237

Pigs

Carcases	(Tuberculosis)		2
Carcase	(Erysipelas)		1
,, ...	(Cholaemia)		1
Heads	(Tuberculosis)		5
Mesenteries	(,,)		1

Calves

Carcases....	(Congenital Tuberculosis)		2
,, ...	(Pyaemia)		1
,, ...	(Immaturity)		3

Food surrendered as being unfit for human consumption

391 tins of meat and meat products
115 tins of fish
137 tins of fruit and vegetables
140 tins of milk
2 boxes of fish cakes
5 stone of fish
170 lbs. of oranges

HOUSING AND NUISANCES

It has not been possible for several years past to maintain the desired standard of housing repairs. During the year 71 informal notices were served and 12 statutory notices. Applications were made to the Police Court for Nuisance Orders to be made in 3 cases. The Order was made and the Council awarded costs in each case. The delay in carrying out necessary repairs cannot always be laid against the owner as on many occasions orders given to builders could not be carried out for some months. The shortage of labour and materials and the necessity of applying for licences, obtaining permits for timber, etc., has militated against the speedy abatement of nuisances.

Since 1939 several houses were the subject of demolition orders under the Housing Acts and other houses, which would undoubtedly have been the subject of representation under the Housing Acts, have been in constant occupation. The Council has been greatly concerned at the number of houses which are sub-normal by present day standards, but it is realised that, while the present acute housing shortage remains, little can be done apart from patching up the worn out structures. When the demolition and clearance provisions of the Housing Acts can be implemented, it will be necessary for a complete inspection to be made of all dwelling houses as is being done in the rural areas.

The housing application register was completely revised during the year. A new application form was printed and the Council

adopted a grading scheme in consideration of the allocation of accommodation, following the recommendation of the Housing Management sub-committee of the Central Housing Advisory Committee. Following the receipt of applications each applicant is visited by the Sanitary Inspector who notes the condition of the house, extent of overcrowding, etc., and is in a position to report to the Housing Committee.

At the end of the year 550 applications had been received. Thirty-seven houses were commenced by the Council and at the time this Report is published a good proportion of these will have been completed and in occupation.

FROME RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Population estimated 1946	11,778
Area of the District	51,933 acres
Number of Houses inhabited according to Rate Books	3,250
Average number of Persons per House	3·6
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£159
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1946	£38,617

Chairman of the Council	Preb. K. C. Jackson
Chairman of the General Purposes Committee	Preb. K. C. Jackson
Sanitary Inspector	H. L. Burt, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I., C. Meat & Foods I., C.S.I.E.B. (Lond.)

Public Offices, Frome.

Telephone: Frome 2625

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

The number of births registered, adjusted for inward and outward transfers, total 203.

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
Legitimate	79	109	188
Illegitimate	10	5	15
	89	114	203

STILL BIRTHS

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	3	1	4

Birth Rate, per 1000 estimated resident population, mid 1946	19·92
Still births, rate per 1000 total (live and still) births	19·32
Death Rate, per 1000 estimated average population	11·58

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All Infants per 1000 live births	39·41
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	37·23
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	66·67

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
,, ,, Other puerperal causes	2
,, ,, Cancer (all ages)	21
,, ,, Measles (all ages)	Nil
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
,, ,, Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	Nil

DEATHS

The number of deaths, adjusted for inward and outward transfers, total 118, 54 males and 64 females. The following Table indicates the cause of death :—

	Male	*Female*	*Total*
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—	—
Scarlet fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	1	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	4	3	7
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—
Syphilitic diseases	—	—	—
Influenza	2	—	2
Measles	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Acute infantile encephalitis	—	—	—
Cancer of Oesoph. and Uterus	—	2	2
Cancer of Stomach and duodenum	—	—	—
Cancer of Breast	—	4	4
Cancer of all other sites	9	6	15
Diabetes	—	—	—
Intracranial vascular lesions	7	4	11
Heart disease	10	21	31
Other diseases of circulatory system	1	—	1
Bronchitis	3	2	5
Pneumonia	4	5	9
Other respiratory diseases	—	—	—
Ulcer of Stomach or duodenum	2	1	3
Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	—	—	—
Appendicitis	—	—	—
Other digestive diseases	3	2	5
Nephritis	1	4	5
Puerperal and post abortive sepsis	—	—	—
Other maternal causes	—	2	2
Premature birth	—	—	—
Congenital malformation, birth injury	1	1	2
Suicide	1	—	1
Road traffic accidents	—	—	—
Other violent causes	3	3	6
All other causes	3	3	6
	54	64	118

Deaths under One year of age

There were 8 deaths of Infants under 1 year, 5 male and 3 females, divided as follows :—

Under 1 week	Nil	1—4 weeks	1
1—6 months	6	6—12 months	1

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis)

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
Small pox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	13	8	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—
Measles	4	—	—
Whooping Cough	25	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Malaria	1	—	—
Pneumonia	7	—	2
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Encephalitis lethargica	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—
	52	9	3

TUBERCULOSIS

Eleven cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified, 6 male and 5 female. Three cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified, all female.

	Total Cases notified	*Total Deaths*
Respiratory	11	7
Non-respiratory	3	Nil

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

WATER SUPPLIES

District Council Water Supplies (Springs)

The following villages are supplied from the Council's own springs :—

Coleford, Buckland Dinham, Mells, Nunney, Leigh-on-Mendip, Wanstrow, Norton St. Philip, Rode, Beckington, and Standerwick.

The following areas are supplied by the Council from bulk supplies of adjacent authorities :—

Rodden, Oldford, Spring Gardens, Marston Back Lane and The Mount. Extensions from the Frome Urban District Council's mains.

Upper and Lower Vobster and Hoare's Lane. Extensions from Norton-Radstock U.D.C. mains.

Kilmersdon Common. Extensions from the Shepton Mallet R.D.C. mains.

Village pump supplies :—

Faulkland, Laverton, Upton Noble, Rudge and Tytherington.

Private Supplies

The following villages obtain their supplies from private supplies :—

Berkley, Elm, Farleigh Hungerford, Tellisford, Hemington, Lullington, Witham Friary, Wolverton.

The village of Kilmersdon is supplied by private agreement from the mains of the Norton-Radstock U.D.C.

Public Supplies

The following refers to the principal public water supplies :—

COLEFORD. Owing to wet season experienced, this supply remained abundant for all needs. On account of the badly worn condition of the barrels of the triple plunger pump these were removed and the work carried out without any interruption with the supply to the village.

BUCKLAND DINHAM. This supply was again abundant for all needs

LEIGH-ON-MENDIP. The supply from these springs was ample to meet the requirements of the village. Considerable trouble was experienced with the small rotary pump and motor at Tadhill, and ultimately it was decided to scrap the pump and instal a plunger type pump. In view of the erection of new Council houses in this parish, and the consequent increased demand for water, a duplicate pumping plant is being installed.

NORTON ST. PHILIP, RODE, BECKINGTON AND STANDERWICK REGIONAL SUPPLY. These works have been in operation for a period of just over nine years and have provided a continuous supply to the area served. Extensive repairs, as a result of a breakdown of the No. 2 Pump, were executed by the makers, the work being completed on the 13th June. During this time the pump was dismantled a number of tests were carried out by means of a plunger pump and these tests were examined in person by our consulting engineer, the regional engineer, Ministry of Health, and also by Professor Fearnsides.

Towards the end of the year further trouble was experienced with No. 2 Pump and at one time it appeared that it would be necessary to withdraw it again, but fortunately the action taken resulted in the trouble being removed, and in the pump functioning satisfactorily again.

An extension from this supply was laid to the Rectory, Farleigh Hungerford, by the Ministry of Works, and this, having become redundant for their use, was offered to the Council and purchased by them for a nominal sum.

Several fractures and bursts in the mains occurred in a particular section at Rode, and these were, no doubt, due to the action of the soil in the locality. Consideration has been given to extensions of this system to various points, but these have all been deferred until the new well and pumping plant is installed and tests as to the quantity of water available carried out.

FAULKLAND. The proposed scheme for conveying the water from Norton St. Philip to Terry Hill is still held up pending the completion of the new well and pumping plant.

MELLS. These springs showed no variation in their customary behaviour and the wet year maintained an adequate supply.

NUNNEY. The springs at Gaer Hill again maintained a constant supply of water of good quality, but the ever increasing demands make the problem of maintaining an uninterrupted supply to the village a somewhat difficult task.

The new 3-inch asbestos water main which was laid along a section of Ridgeway upon my recommendation has continued to give a satisfactory supply to all consumers.

WANSTROW. This supply was considerably assisted by the wet season and no complaints were received as to shortage.

GENERAL. During the year the Regional Engineer, Ministry of Health, visited the district and carried out an exhaustive investigation into the question of water supplies in the area. Sampling of Council supplies has been regularly carried out during the year, and the samples submitted to the County Analyst.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Coleford

These sewage works have received regular attention and the final effluent has been satisfactory. A properly fenced and surfaced roadway has been constructed through the field leading to the works.

Nunney

These works have functioned satisfactorily during the year and the contractors for the emptying of the settlement tanks have carried out their work in a very satisfactory manner.

Rode

These works have been well maintained during the year, but the volume flowing to them is still as great as ever and they continue to be very much overloaded.

REFUSE COLLECTION

During the year the Council decided to inaugurate a general scheme for the collection of all house refuse from the whole of the area, the collection to be made fortnightly. Previously only indestructible house refuse was collected from the major part of the area plus the whole of the house refuse from Coleford.

SALVAGE

A separate scheme for the salvage of waste paper, etc., has continued to operate throughout the year and a considerable amount of work has been entailed in this direction. A noticeable fall in the quantities collected occurred and, despite all the efforts that have been made to stem the downward trend, the volume continued to decline.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

Appropriate action has been taken in all cases where infestation has been observed, and interviews with Ministry of Food officials have been held on a number of occasions.

ERADICATION OF BUGS

No case of bug infestation was noted during the year, and the area appears to be singularly free from this pest.

MILK SUPPLY

Visits of inspection to farms and dairies were made during the year and informal action taken where necessary was sufficient to deal with all matters arising. At the end of the year there were 70 accredited and 34 tuberculin tested producers on the register.

Number of Producers on the Register	393
Number of Distributors on the Register :	
(a) Distributors only	3
(b) Distributors who are Producers	110
Licensed Plants :	
Pasteurising	Nil
Heat treatment	Nil

At the request of the County Council the sampling of milk from cattle herds for examination for the presence of tubercle bacillus has been carried out and for this purpose samples were taken and forwarded to the County Analyst.

FOOD PREMISES

All food premises have been kept under supervision during the year and methods of handling and preparation of foodstuffs observed. The following foodstuffs were examined and condemned :—

23 tins of milk
37 ,, ,, fish
12 ,, ,, meat and meat products
11 ,, ,, beans
57 ,, ,, vegetable soup
6 ,, ,, chopped ham
3 ,, ,, ,, pork
150 lbs. ,, dried prunes

RIVER POLLUTION

No case of river pollution was noted during the year.

HOUSING REPORT BY MR. PROSSER

In accordance with the requirements of the Hobhouse Report on rural housing a preliminary survey has now been carried out in the whole of this district of the great majority of all working class dwellings. As was anticipated, the survey has shown that the standard of housing is most unsatisfactory and far below the agreed standard required for the whole of the county.

The result of the preliminary survey is as follows :

Total number of cottages in the district under a R.V. of £17	2691
Total number of cottages inspected	2587
,, ,, ,, ,, in category one	344
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, two	651
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, three	778
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, four	386
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, five (demolition)	814

The figures speak for themselves, especially when one remembers that there are only eleven per cent of the dwellings in the district with a rateable value of over £16.

Of the cottages inspected, only 13 per cent are satisfactory in all respects and a further 25 per cent require minor repairs. This leaves 62 per cent in categories three and five which denotes that very considerable repair and reconstructions are required to be carried out to 1,592 cottages. Furthermore, in my opinion, which is based on the requirements of the Housing Acts, 814 of these cottages are totally unfit and beyond all hope of repair.

The 778 cottages which have been scheduled in category three require extensive repairs and, in many cases, thorough reconditioning. I do not believe, however, that the owners will be prepared to reconstruct their cottages unless a grant is forthcoming from the Government, as it would not be an economic proposition in view of the low rentals asked for many of them. A proportion of the cottages in this group can be brought up to the required standard by the serving of notices under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Of the 386 cottages scheduled in category four (i.e. suitable for Housing (R.W.) Acts) I am convinced that these are houses which should be reconstructed. The structures and sites are very satisfactory and, if reconditioned, would compare favourably with

the houses which are now being built by the Council, plus the added advantage that they could be let at about half the rent of new cottages. In my opinion, a very important point, as I fail to see any advantage to be gained by the occupiers if they have to cut down on their standard of living in order to pay the high rent.

In the preliminary survey I have not scheduled any cottages as suitable for acquisition by the local authority as I am of the opinion that this can only be decided when the full detailed survey is made. I shall be very reluctant to advise the Council to take over odd cottages, no matter how suitable the site, as I feel that the problem, or one of the problems, will be the heavy maintenance cost of keeping their houses in repair in the future.

I have no hesitation in saying that the 814 cottages which I have scheduled in category five should, most definitely, be demolished and the unfortunate tenants rehoused at the earliest possible moment. At present they are little more than hovels, and I am of the opinion that drastic action will have to be taken by this Council if the rural dwellers in this district are to be housed in cottages of a standard equal to that laid down in the Hobhouse Report. These cottages in the demolition group must not be reconstructed under any Acts that may be passed. The only satisfactory solution is the building of new houses to replace these useless and uneconomic relics of bygone days.

Under the Housing Rural Workers Acts, many admirable reconstructions were carried out, but there were many which were reconditioned when the correct action was demolition. There is a vast difference between a cottage suitable for reconstruction and one which requires a demolition order.

During the year every endeavour has, and will be, made to have repairs executed to cottages which are not weatherproof and, so far, 124 preliminary notices have been served. Ninety-five cottages have been repaired as a result of such action.

A detailed inspection is now being carried out of the 1,592 cottages which were scheduled in categories three and five in the preliminary survey and the Council have agreed that those placed in category five shall be filled with a view to an official representation being served on the owners at the appropriate time. This will enable the Council to embark at once on the rehousing of these displaced people immediately the Ministry sanction the demolition of unfit houses.

During the course of my inspections I have been very considerably concerned to find so many old people living the last years of their lives alone, in filthy and unfit houses, or as unwelcome guests in the houses of relatives, who often, obviously, resent their presence. These aged people require small, modern cottages which they can call their own, with all services available so that their lives are no longer taken up with household duties such as the carrying of water long distances from street stand pipes or distant

wells. So far, the Council have made no provisions for the erection of such houses in their present building programme.

Great as is the task which confronts this Council in providing houses for those at present without homes, a far greater problem awaits them when the tenants of demolition cottages are to be rehoused. This problem is now acute, as the rural worker is no longer satisfied with the atrocious conditions under which he has lived for far too many years.